Preventing The Next Motorcycle Mishap

“CITUS ET CERTUS”

AGENDA

- **0800 Wing Commander's Opening Remarks**
- **0805 Rider- Briefer’s present mishap reports, discuss rider attitude/limitations and local conditions/driving hazards**
- **0850 Wing Commander's Closing Remarks**

BGen General Bailey

Rider/Briefers:

Capt Ringlein

SSgt Rutstein

Fatal

Location:	**United Kingdom**
Rank:	**TSgt**
Age:	**34**
Alcohol Involved:	**Negative**
Injury:	**Head, Internal Injuries**
Vehicle:	**1998 Harley Davidson, 1200 CC , Sportster**
Narrative:	**Member passed a slow moving vehicle and entered into a left hand double curve. He successfully negotiated the first curve, but on the second curve he left the roadway. He attempted to maintain control of his motorcycle. He traveled straight for approximately 30 feet, parallel to a ditch located 12-18 inches from the roadway, before the bike struck a tree. Member was**

Nonfatal

Location:	**Aviano, Italy**
Rank:	**SSgt**
Age:	**28**
Alcohol Involved:	**Not Suspected**
Injury:	**Multiple fractures to the right lower leg**
Vehicle:	**2003 Honda VFR, 800 CC**
Narrative:	**Member was attempting to pass two slow moving vehicles. He passed the first vehicle and was attempting to pass the lead vehicle when it made an unexpected left-hand turn. Member struck the rear of the vehicle and was ejected from his motorcycle. He was thrown eight meters. Member was wearing the required gear.**

Nonfatal

Location:	**Spangdahlem, Germany**
Rank:	**TSgt**
Age:	**34**
Alcohol Involved:	**Negative**
Injury:	**Multiple fractures to lower left leg**
Vehicle:	**2000 Harley Davidson FXD**
Narrative:	**Member was negotiating a slight left curve when his rear tire spun and slid out. Member lost control and skidded. His left leg impacted the roadway resulting in multiple fractures. Member believes he hit a slick spot or loose dirt in the roadway. Member was wearing the required the gear.**

Nonfatal

Location:	**Aviano, Italy**
Rank:	**A1C**
Age:	**23**
Alcohol Involved:	**Negative**
Injury:	**Fractures to left leg**
Vehicle:	**2000 Suzuki GSXR600 600CC**
Narrative:	**Member was following a vehicle, when the vehicle made an unexpected left turn. The member struck the rear of the vehicle resulting in a fractured left leg. Member was wearing the required the gear.**

Nonfatal

Location:	**Aviano Italy**
Rank:	**A1C**
Age:	**21**
Alcohol Involved:	**Negative**
Injury:	**Fractured collar bone**
Vehicle:	**2003 Suzuki GSXR 600CC**
Narrative:	**Member entered a curve, hit a patch of loose dirt and lost traction. This created an unrecoverable off-balance condition. Member was ejected and impacted the pavement resulting in his injury. Member was wearing the required gear.**

Nonfatal

Location:	**United Kingdom**
Rank:	**LtCol**
Age:	**39**
Alcohol Involved:	**Not Accomplished**
Injury:	**Fractured patella, left knee**
Vehicle:	**2000 Harley Davidson, Road King**
Narrative:	**While coming to a stop, member extended his left leg to stabilize his motorcycle. His foot slipped on loose sand, twisted inward and caught the pavement. The weight of the motorcycle and his body caused his knee to buckle. Member was wearing the required the gear.**

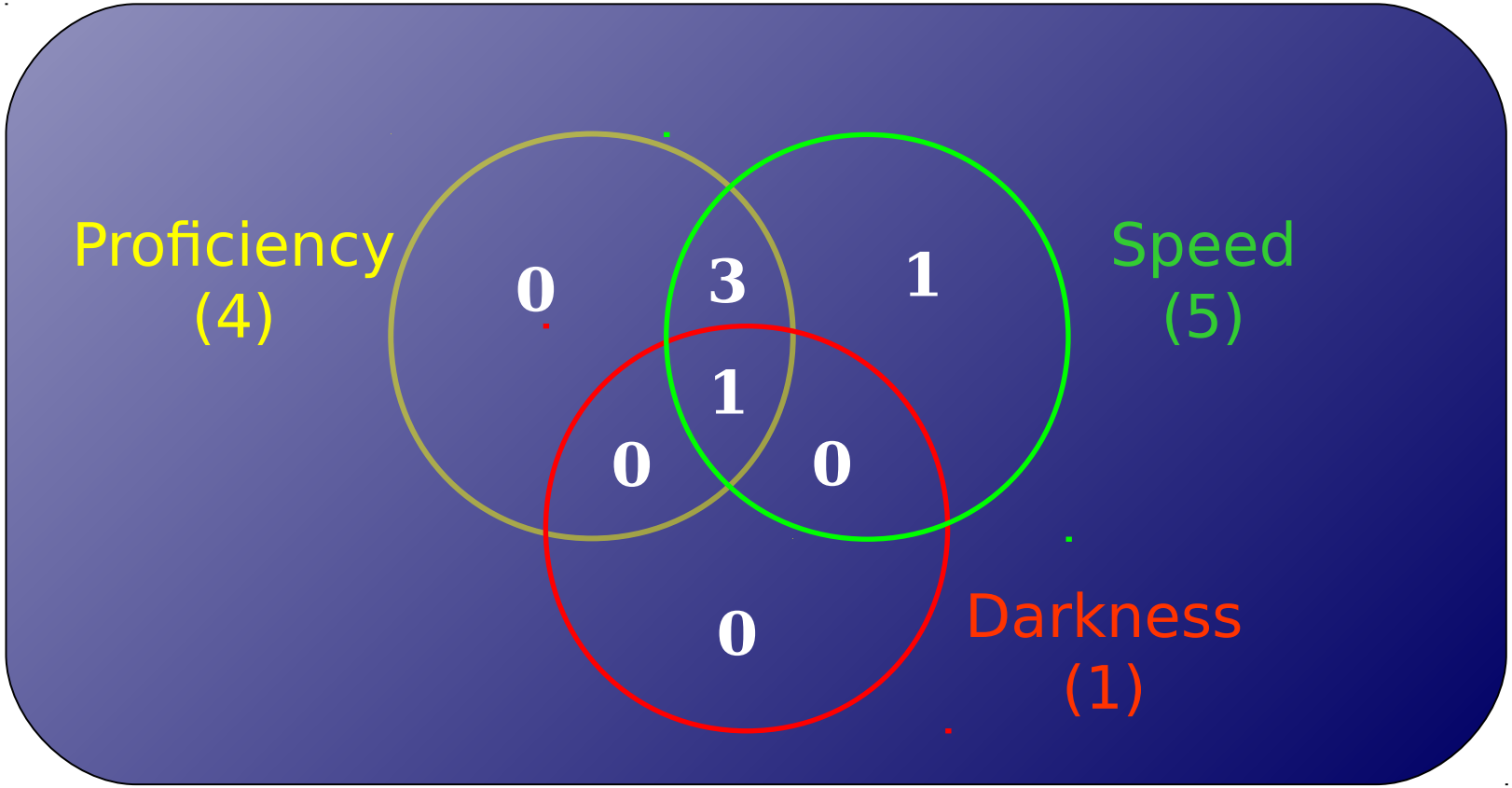
Nonfatal

Location:	**Ruedesheim, Germany**
Rank:	**SSgt**
Age:	**30**
Alcohol Involved:	**Pending**
Injury:	**Fractured leg, Bruised Lung, Facial Fractures**
Vehicle:	**2002 Harley Davidson, Deuce**
Narrative:	**Operator failed to negotiate a left-hand curve and hit curb on the side of the road. Lost control of vehicle and struck guardrail and was thrown 60 feet. Member was wearing the required gear.**

USAF Motorcycle Summary

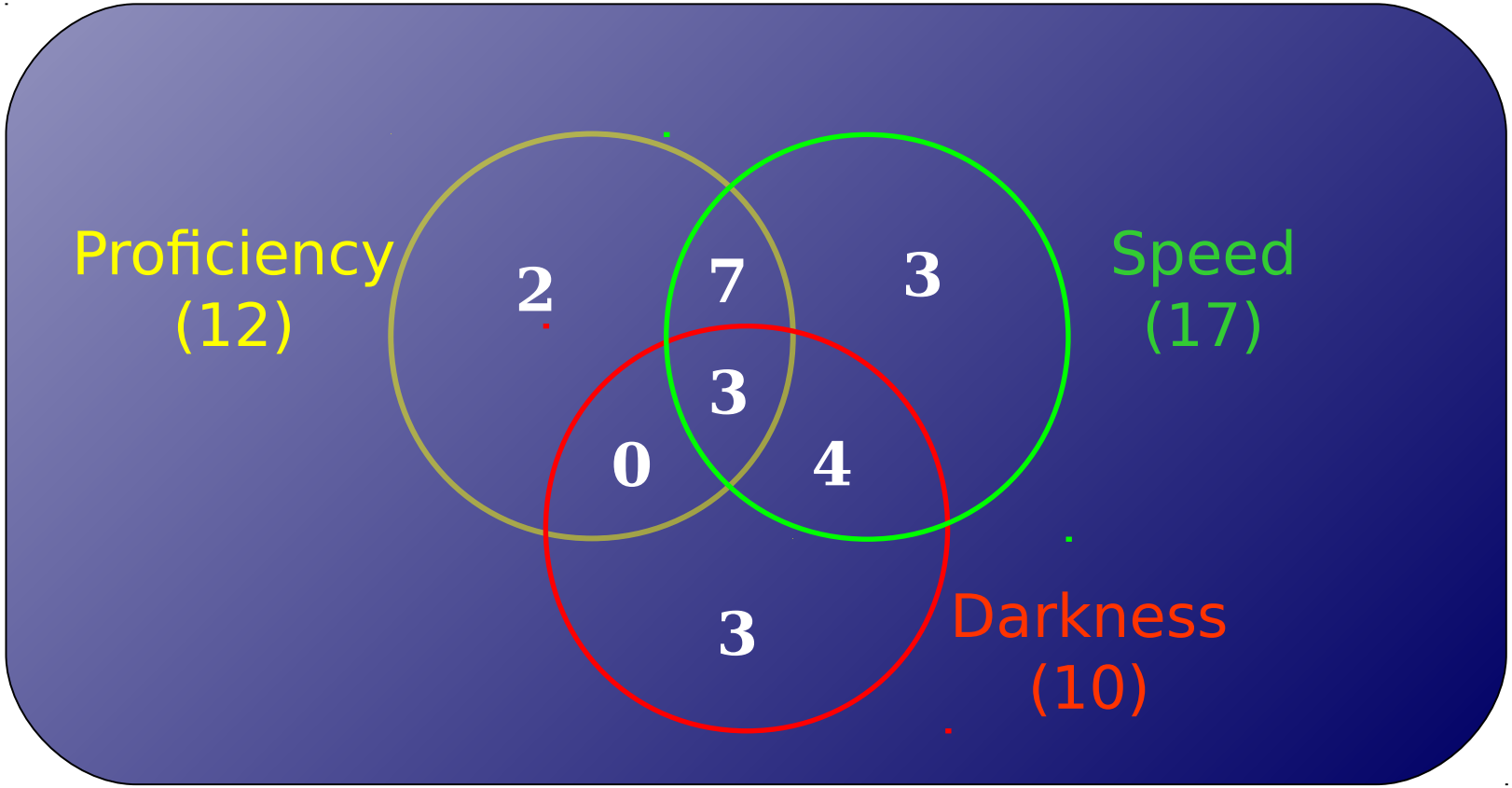
- FY 03
  - 24 Fatalities
  - 2 Permanent Total Disabilities
- FY 04 (as of 1 Jul 04)
  - 10 Fatalities
  - 2 Permanent Total Disabilities

Motorcycle Mishap Factors FY 04



Lack of Proficiency, Speed and Darkness

Motorcycle Mishap Factors FY 03



Lack of Proficiency, Speed and Darkness

What are the Risks?

Ride Safe

- **S.P.I.D.E.**

- **Scan**
- **Identify**
- **Predict**
- **Decide**
- **Execute**

Ride Safe

Most Dangerous Injuries…Chest and Head!

Proficiency…Who is more likely to have mishap…Average Age

- **Civilian = Ages between 16-24 significantly over represented**
- **In the AF…< 26 years of age**

Intersections are the most likely place of motorcycle accidents!

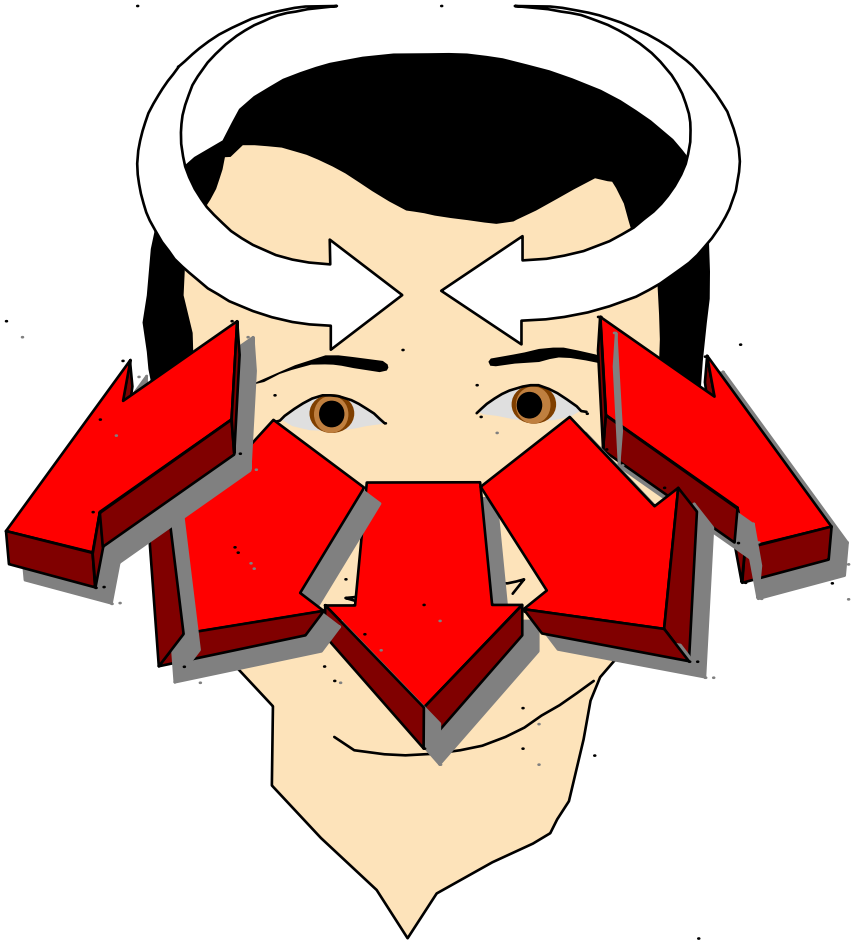
Turns are a killer, too!

SLOW, LOOK, PRESS,ROLL (SLPR)

- **Not a visual problem, but a Crosscheck problem**
  - **e.g. Speed, Poor Judgment, Inattention, etc.**
- **Fixation on object coming out of a turn**
- **Nose slice detectable if looking for it**

Look where you're going during turns!!!

Proper Scanning Technique …use a diamond shape pattern



Riding in Weather

- Rain
  - Decreased visibility
  - Increased braking distance
- In Fog
  - What you see gets slower therefore you go faster
  - Decreased speed sensitivity
- Wind
  - Lighter bikes may have decreased stability in crosswinds
  - Bike may drift

Attacking the Problem

- **The Basics**
  - **Never drink and ride**
  - **Always wear personal protective equipment**
  - **Superior defensive driving skills required**
- **Personal Risk Management**
  - **Assess every situation – continuously!**
  - **Consider options to limit risk**
  - **Take appropriate action**
- **Reduce risk through personal involvement at all levels**
  - **Commanders**
  - **Supervisors**
  - **Co-workers**
  - **Fellow riders**
- **Safe Riding is an Attitude!**

CONCLUSION

Questions ?